

200929Z Sep 01

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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	DS-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	LAB-01	VCE-00
	DCP-01	NSAE-00	TEST-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	NFAT-00	SAS-00		/004W			

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9763
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX, ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT, AF/P,
INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ZI PREL PHUM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TERROR ATTACKS IN THE U. S.;
HARARE

11. THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "THE DAILY NEWS" DEDICATED ITS SEPTEMBER 20 EDITORIAL TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE UNITED STATES. UNDER HEADLINE "TARGETING ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE CAN BE DANGEROUS," THE PAPER COMMENTS:

12. "PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ACTED QUICKLY TO DOUSE THE FLAMES OF ANTI-ISLAMIC HATRED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 11 SEPTEMBER MASSACRES IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. INADVERTENTLY, BOTH BUSH AND HIS SECRETARY OF STATE, COLIN POWELL, HAD LIT THE FUSE WITH THEIR SELECTION OF THE SAUDI-BORN BILLIONAIRE DISSIDENT, OSAMA BIN LADEN, AS THEIR PRIME SUSPECT. THE MAN IS AN ARAB AND A MUSLIM, ALBEIT ONE WHO BELIEVES IN A VERSION OF THE KORAN WHICH ESPOUSSES VIOLENCE AS PART OF THE WORSHIP OF ALLAH. BUT THE WAVE OF ATTACKS ON MUSLIMS OR PEOPLE OF MIDDLE EASTERN APPEARANCE IN THE U. S. A. IS VERY DISTURBING, NOT ONLY FOR THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, BUT FOR THE WORLD AS WELL. . . THE PROBLEM FOR THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS CLEAR. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE STILL ITCHING TO WREAK REVENGE ON WHOEVER ATTACKED THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND THE PENTAGON. UNDER THIS TREMENDOUS PUBLIC PRESSURE, THE ADMINISTRATION FELT IT HAD TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING OR SOMEONE - AND OSAMA BIN LADEN, HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBINGS OF U. S. EMBASSIES IN NAIROBI AND DAR ES SALAAM IN 1998 - WAS IT. NOBODY CAN BLAME THE U. S. GOVERNMENT FOR WANTING TO PUNISH WHOEVER ATTACKED THEIR CAPITAL AND THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS. A MOST HEINOUS CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED AND PERPETRATORS MUST BE FOUND AND PUNISHED, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. BUT IN THE HUNT FOR THE TERRORISTS, THE U. S. GOVERNMENT MUST BE CAREFUL THAT IT DOES NOT SQUANDER THE GOODWILL AND SYMPATHY OF A WORLD AS OUTRAGED BY THE ATROCITY AS THEY ARE."

ROTH

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